# 2600



# SEPTEMBER, 1985

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# a guide to VMS

by Lex Luthor and The Legion of Doora/Hackers

the VAX is made by DEC (Digital Equipment Corp) and can can excictly of operating systems. In this article, I will talk about the VMS (Virtual Memory operating System).

: Buteanen

When you first contact with a VAX you type either a return, a ctrl-c, et a ctrl-y, it will then respond with something similar to:

LOD RECURSIVE SYSTEMS INC. VMS V4.0

Username:

Password:

The most frequent way of gaining access to a computer system is by using a 'default' login/ password. In this example you may try LOD as the occurrence and RECURSIVE as the password or a combination of words is the opening banner (if there is one) which may atlow you access, atherwise you wall have to try the DEPAULT METHOD of entry. The version listed above (V4.0) is the latest version to my knowledge of VMS. The more widely used version that I have seen is V3.7.

When DEC sells a VAX/VMS, the system comes equipped with 4 normous which are:

DEFAULT—This serves as a template in ervating user records in the UAF (Oser Authorization File). A new user record is assigned the values of the DEFAULT record except where the system manager changes those values. The DEFAULT percord can be modified but cannot be deleted from the UAF.

YSTEM—Provides a means for the system manager to log in with full provideges. The SYSTEM record can be modified but cannot be deleted from the TIAF.

FIELD—Permits DIGITAL field service personnel to check out a new system. The FIELD record can be deleted once the system is installed.

SYSTEST—Provides on appropriate environment for tunning the User Environment Teat Package (UETP). The SYSTEST record can be deleted once the system is installed.

Usually the SYSTEM MANAGER adds, deletes, and modifies these securds which are in the HAF when the system strives, thus climinating the default passwords, but this is not true in all cases.

The 'default' passwords that I have found to work are:

Username: Password:
SYSTEM MANAGER or OPERATOR
FIELD SERVICE or TEST
DEFAULT USER or DEFAULT
SYSTEST UETP or SYSTEST

Other typical VMS accounts are:

VAX YAX VM6 VMS DCL DCL. DEMIN DEMO TEST TEST HELP . HELP NEWS MEWS GUEST GUEST GAMEN GAMES DECNET DECNEY

Or a combination of the various usersames and passwerds, if none of these get you in. then you should move un to the next system unless you have a way to get usermunes/passwords, like from tracking, stealing passwords directly, or by some other means.

You will know that you are in by receiving the proutpt of a dollar sign 'S'. You will be papped into the default directory which is dependent on what account you are logged in xx. If you get in as the system manager, you have full access. If you get in on the field or system occurry you may no may not have full access but you will have the privileges to give yourself full access. To give privileges to yourself: S SET PROCESS (PRIVS=A)1.

Order you have full privs, you can access any directory and any file, and also in the AUTHORIZE program which will be explained.

The VMS system has full help like available by typing HELP. You can use the wildcard character of "" to list out info on every command: \$ HELP \*.

When you first logon, it may be to your advantage to get a list of all users currently logged onto the system if there are any at all. You can do this by: S. SHOW USERS. Then you should get something like this:

VAX/VMS Interactive Users - Total > 4 01-MAY-1985 11:37:21.70

OPA0; DEMO 004C004C TTD2: LAWRENCI, 0099004A TXBI: FIELD 008D044E TXB3: TWYLYSYS 01190057

It is highly recommended that if you are logged on in the day and there are people logged in, especially the system manager on the account you are logged on as, ingoniand call back better. I have found that no matter what system you are on, the best way to remain undetected is to call when no one is on the system. You do not want to call too late since the system keeps a round of when such user logs in and out.

To communicate with other users of other backers that you are on the system with, use the PHONES Uniting \$ PHONES Username. If the system has DEC-net, you can see what available nodes there are by: \$ \$HOW NETWORK. If you have mail the system will tell you so after logging in, simply type: \$ MASE, Thyswill invoke the Personal Mail Utility; you can use help from there.

There are a lot of commands and many are not two useful (to the backer anyway), so I will not go into detail. One thing about VMS, there is plenty of out-include available which will enable you to know the operating system fairly well.

#### Directories

To see what you have in your directory type: SDIR. Tingeta list of directories on the system type: 5 (DIR [\* \*].

When a VAX/VMS is first installed, it comes with nine directories which are not listed when you execute the DIR [\*.\*] command. [SYSLIR]—various macro and object libraries; [SYSMSG]—system message files, [SYSMGR]—files used in managing the operating system; [SYSBLP]—test files and help libraries for the IELP mility; [SYSERR]—directory for the error legifile (ERRLOG. SYS); [SYSTEST]—files used in testing the functions of the operating system; [SYSERF]—files used in applying system updates; [SYSLIPD EXAMPLES]—sample driver programs, user-writer, system services, and other source programs; [SYSEXE]—the executable images of most of the functions of the operating system.

lowide these directories are files with the following file-types:

File-type	Description:	Command:
,rich	Aswii text life	TYPE file-name
hip	System Help file	TYPE file-name
dut	Data file	TYPE file-name
.mag	Message file .	TYPE Die-name
.doc	Documentation	TYPE (Be-mane
,log	Log file	TYPE file-name
ætt	Error mag file	TYPE We-name
seq	Sequential file	TYPE Ble-name
333	System file	FILE-NAME
ese	Kaccutable file	FIRE-NAME -
.enm	Communed file	COMMAND NAME
has	Basic file	RUN file-manne

There are others but you wan't see them as much as the above, You can change directories either by using: S CHANGE [(HR.NAM] or S SET DEFAILT [DIR.NAM].

You can now list and execute the files in this directory without first typing the directory name followed by the file name as long as you have sufficient access. If you don't have sufficient access you can still view files within directories that you cannot default to by: S TYPE [LOD,DIR]LOD,MAI; I. This will first the contents of the file LOD,MAI; I in the directory of [LOD,DIR].

The use of wikkengs is very helpful when you desire to view all the mail or samething on a system. To first out all the users mail if you have necess type: 5 TYPE[\*.\*]\*, MAI(\*. As you may notice mail files have the extension of MAI at the end. The :1 or :2 etc. are used to number files with the same room.

(This is the first of an angoing series on the VMS operating system. Because to took in fitture issues of 2000 for more in this series. If you want to see an article about a particular exemputer or operating system, let us know.)

# The Infinity Transmitter-An Old Bug That Had Its Time

by Howard

There is always a great hush when the term infinity transmitter is mentioned, as if it were some amazing secret device, but it can be simply explained. The infinity transmitter or harmonica bug is a device installed within a target's phone. This device allows a person to call the phone and listen in on him while he is quite unaware. This device has a few problems, the biggest of which is that the target's phone must be connected to either a Crossbur or Step by Step switch. The other drawback is that the bug must be installed in the target's phone. This means one must enter the house, place the bug in the phone, and rewire it as required. This bug could also be detected if the target were to attempt to use his phone while you were monitoring his activities. Since you are on his phone line listening to him, he might think it strange that his phone was being used, especially if he has any technical background. Let's see how to use the bog once it is installed.

Once installed all the observer has to do is call the target's phone number. After the observer dials the last digit, he sends a specific tone down the phone line which causes the bug to answer the phone before it rings. The frequency of the tone is user selectable and set during the construction process. The exact frequency of the tone is quite unimportant.

This type of bug can be used from anywhere there is a phone.

The potential distance is infinite hence the name "infinity transmitter." Ending the audio visit with the target is just as easy as starting it. A different frequency tone is sent down the line telling the bug to hang up. Overall, a very simple concept.

The reason this bug works on Step by Step and Crossbar switches is because in these systems the audio and ring generator are connected to the phone called before it is answered. So it is possible for the bug to answer the phone before the ring capacitor is fully charged by the ring generator. ESS and DMS switches do not connect the audio to the called phone line until after the phone is answered, making the infinity transmitter useless. In the case where the user does not apply the pick-up tone immediately, the phone would ring, then stop suddenly. Therefore some skill is required to avoid tipping me target off to the fact that he is being watched.

Construction of this device should be relatively easy for someone with a little experience in the electronics world. The bug would be isolated from the phone by using two non-polarized capacitors of 1 uf or better. It would mainly consist of two frequency detectors. One would connect the audio from the mouth piece to the phone line and answer the phone when the pick-up tone is detected. The other would disconnect the audio from the mouth piece from the phone line and hang up the phone when the hone from the phone line and hang up the

phone when the hang-up tone appears.

# Reaching Out On Your Own

by Forest Ranger

Verification is a very touchy subject. The telephone company wants to keep verification secret from anyone beyond teleo employees. But as phone phreaks should know that is quite impossible. There are two types of operators that do verifications, "0" (TSPS) for local verifications and IO (INWARD) operators for verifications beyond your NPA. They use their operator console, but other people use blue boxes.

KP:NPA+0+XX+NPA+XXX+XXXX:ST

The first NPA (area code) is yours and the 0 will get you on your TSPS operator lines. The next XX part is an area identifier. They are 00, 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77, 88, 99. There are ten possible choices depending on which area you are in. For example, blue box verification for Michigan would be KP:313+0+66+NPA+XXX+XXXX;ST. The second NPA is the NPA of the number you are going to verify. The XXX+XXXX part is the rest of the number you are going to verify.

Once you have routed your verification you will receive a series of clicks (tandems stacking), then you will hear a beep and you will be on the line. You won't understand what anyone is saying because everything will be scrambled. The verification will last about thirty seconds. Then you will be beeped out and finally disconnected.

Federal laws regarding fine listening have become much stronger—especially after 1974 when a subcommittee of the House of Representatives held a public hearing called "Telephone Monitoring Practices by Federal Agencies". At this hearing it was discovered that Bell had listened in to lines of their employees and had the power to listen in on anyone. This shocked many people and made federal laws concerning such activity much stronger. My point is don't abuse this verification, because all you need is a simple descrambler from Radio Shack to descramble the conversation on the line.

# PURSUIT FOR PEOPLE

On August 7, GTE Telenct announced a new service which, if handled properly, will usher in a whole new phase of computer communications.

The service is called PC Pursuit and it enables people to connect their computers to other computers for \$25 a month (plus a start-up fee of \$25). In other words, a hobbyist in New York can connect his computer to a bulletin board in California and not have to pay for a long distance call. The "computer conversation" goes through GTE Telenet, a packet-switching network for computers, previously used exclusively by large corporations.

"To access the service," GTE's press release explains, "a user calls his PC Pursuit access number and is prompted to enter his

home phone number and make a request for a destination phone number in a distant city. If the user's telephone number is not authorized, the phone call is lerminated and a record of the call is generated. If the number is authorized, the subscriber is called back and automatically connected to the desired telephone number in the distant city, which could be a specific database or remote PC user. GTE Telenet is able to maintain full accounting of the origin and destination of all calls. Each user session can last a full hour, and users may access the service as many times a month as they wish."

PC Pursuit represents the first time a major corporation has attempted to win over computer backers rather than intimidate them. J. David Hann, president of GTE Telenet, says, "We (continued on page 2-64)

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# Phone-in Registration For College

Combined New Young

A \$77,600 computer system that allows students to sign up for courses and after their schedules using touch-tone telephones will be tested by 300 Union County College (New Jersey) students this fall and up to 7,000 students are expected to be using the procedure by next spring.

"When the student dials in, each course will have a five-digit code number," John Fathal, the college's dean of computer services said. "The student will be prompted by a recorded voice for his identification, so students will have access when they are admitted, a password that only he will know [!], and then he will be led by the voice prompt through the procedure."

The system, purchased from Information Associates of Rochester and similar to those now being used by airlines for flight reservations, will inform students if their chosen courses are full and whether similar ones are available. It will also have the potential to provide many other services for students in the future, such as helping determine the status of their financial aid requests or the status of their admission application.

# Trouble With 800 "Word Numbers".

Die New Yark, Trans-

When Hindalene Rosner saw "1-800-LIVE-AID" flash on her television screen is the early hours of the worldwide benefit concert, she had a feeling that things would get busy.

It should be explained that Mrx. Rosner is vice president of the Life Aid Corporation. And her company's nationwide tollfree telephone number is I-800-(LIFE-AID.

"Every two seconds," Mrs. Rosner said, calls were coming into headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, from viewers who were moved by the Live Aid convert to pledge money for the starving and homeless people of Africa.

Callers to Life Aid are told very politely that "this is a totally different business" and are given the correct listing—in digits (1-800-548-3243), not letters.

## War Game Addict

Associated Pres-

A 19 year-old computer enthusiasi who said he was addicted to a space was game and used stolen credit card numbers to charge playing time was placed on probation and ordered to make restitution after pleading guilty to wire fraud, a Federal official said.

The man, Kenneth Goldin, was placed on three years of probation and fined \$500 by Federal Judge Maryanne Trump Barry.

## Hacker Extortionist Caught

1990 Street Service VIII Alexander

Phineas Phreak, he called himself as he roamed through computer bulletin boards. But he was caught by teleo security men, prosecuted under a 1984 Virginia law designed to zap computer trespassing and sentenced to pay \$300 restitution within six months.

The 14-year-old Phineas became one of the first persons to be leadt with under the new law after he pleaded "not innocent" plea frequently used in juvenile proceedings to avoid giving someone a criminal record. The Montgomery County, Md., youth broke into a computer bulletin board service operated by

a Vienna, Va., man and transferred part of what was stored there to his own computer. The victim, Allen Knapp, 40, who runs the Washington Networks BBS out of his home, said his clients pay a \$10 fee for a password and the opportunity to exchange data with others.

Knapp told The Washington Post that on Jan. 5 the youth managed to bypass "my normal security safeguards," transfer files to his own computer, and erase a substantial portion of Knapp's files. "He then called my answering machine, stating what he had done and making certain demands in exchange for the return of the files in his possession," Knapp said. According to Knapp, the youth wanted the access to obtain files that he would then exchange with his friends. Knapp said he called the Virginia State Police and the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. after hearing the message.

### Pitcairn Island Now On AT&T Net

New York Daily Store

After nearly 200 years of peace and solitude, the residents of Pitcairo Island in the South Pacific are about to enter the 20th century.

AT&T Communications Inc., in its relentless quest to wire the world; says it has decided to provide international long-distance service to this two-square-mile island where 53 descendants of Fletcher Christian and the other mutineers of the HMS Bonnty still five.

The AT&T service will allow the islanders to receive and make calls anywhere in the world, instead of just ringing over to Tahiti. But they'll have to learn to talk fast. A three-minute call to or from the U.S. will cost \$11.83 and \$3.36 for each additional minute.

Calling from the U.S. will be tough. Since all the residents must use the island's one telephone, they have already divvied up the time for making and receiving calls from each country. They will be accepting calls from the U.S. at 2 pm, 8:30 pm, and 1:15 am,

# Private Sector Update

2009 Stews Service

Last month, we told you about the raids in New Jersey which involved our official BBS. The Private Secror, as well as the flurry of headline grabbing that ensued. The sysop of The Private Sector is confident that he will have his equipment returned and charges against him dropped. His lawyer, Arthur Miller, who was obtained for the sysop through the American Civil Liberties Union, has not been able to make much progress on the case. Court proceedings have been postponed at the request of the prosecution. To date, the sysop still does not know the evidence against him, nor of any specific crimes he may be charged with. It is expected that the prosecution may try to hold up the equipment and any final actions in this case until the local elections are over.

Since the raids, 2600 has heard of several cases where BBS users have gotten phone calls from federal agents. We have also heard of a few other bulletin boards that have been taken down. If you know of any such cases, please contact our office at 5167512600.

In addition, since the BBS is not currently available, we have made arrangements for uploading of tengthy articles at our office number. They can still be sent by US Mail.

2-59

# DEAR 2600

#### Dear 2600;

In response to the individual inquiring about a back pack microwave system (July 1985), it is my understanding that it is primarily a military field communications device with collapsible satellite antenna and not, as you correctly assumed, a consumer irem.

Thank you for a much needed, educational alternative to blindly accepting the status-quo propaganda machine.

#### Dear 2600-

In your May issue, you were talking about silver boxing and mis-named the AUTOVON precedences. Here are the correct names in order from highest to lowest: Plash Override, Plash, Immediate, Priority, Routise (all calls are routine if no precedence hatton is pashed, or if precedence battons are not installed on the phone).

SEVOX

#### Dear D.J. and SEVOX:

We always appreciate rest onse from readers who have some expertise to offer. Please do not hesitate to correct us.

Deas 2600:

For the reading list: Understanding Telephone Electronics, developed and published by Texas Instruments Learning Center, available tarough the Radio Shack chain, catalogue number 62-1388, 288 pages, \$3.49. This book is a technical tutorial on the basics of telephone systems. You need a fair amount of electronics knowledge to understand the stuff inhere, but nothing you couldn't get from the other "Understanding so and so" books that Radio Shack sells. Topics include the innards of both standard and electronic telephones, speech, dialing, and ringing circuits, digital totrismission techniques, networks, understand more. In short, this is a goldmine of technical information about telephone communications, and (something rather out of character for Radio Shack) is even reasonably priced.

This is from the *Understanding Telephone Electronics* book. According to this book, 2600's opening words about now Alexander Graham Bell answered his phone (Jan. 84 issue) may have been inaccurate, and I quote:

'Early telephone circuits were point-to-point (not switched), and the caller gained the attention of the party at the other end by picking up the transmitter and shoming 'Itello' or 'Ahov'. This was not very satisfactory, and schemes based on a mechanical signaling arrangement were soon invented. The one in common exceeds, called the 'polarized ringer', or bell, was patented in 1878 by Taomas A. Warson (Mr. Bell's assistant)."

So it seems that "Ahoy" was not how A.G.B. answered his phone, but more likely how he induced someone else to answer the place. That makes more sense, since "Ahoy" was usually used at sea to raise the attention of someone else out thereon the toamy brine. Imagine those days of early telephones; where you might walk by that new contraption and hear a dim voice inside yelling "Ahoy".

Talbot

#### Dear 2600:

A while back you were asked if REMOBS really existed, I can tell you for sure that REmote OBServation numbers do, in fact, exist. The hardware is manufactured by different

companies. One of which is called Teradyne, which makes a system called 4-tel.

These systems are working when an exchange is set up for it in the Central Office. They are used for testing and are perfectly legal.

The equipment was built so that you enter a code then a number. It will listen to a number for a limited time and then it sequences to the next number and then the next, But it y takes a few seconds to modify the equipment, so it doesn't step to another number.

As far as I know the going price is \$1,500 to get a telen employee to do the modifications. A guy I know was approached by a phone company employee who wanted to get some money and he offered to set up the system and provide a number and code that could be dialed up from anywhere.

Dear 2600:

I've been thinking of starting my own bulletin board. But I'm not looking forward to the possibility that some jackass will leave a credit card number or other nasty information on my hoard and that some even bigger jackass will see said message before I can delete it and accuse me of conspiring somehow to defiaud or steal or build explosives or whatever else they happen to be afraid of will happen at that moment. The recent mids in New Jersey indicate that even a conscientious syson (as. the fellow who was running the Private Sector claims to be) can get screwed over by computerphobic police and Federal agents. What precauptive protections are available for a bulletin board operator who plans on staying within the confines of the law and yet does not want to stain her or his board with warnings and continually censor the flow of messages? Freedom of the press is a marvelous concept, and apparently allows folks like USA Today to stain every available streeteorner with their one-legged vending machines. What would one have to do to become a "press"? You don't have to be made out of paper, since radio and television reporters quality. Is there a union I can join? A professional society? Maybe we should start one? Can you recommend any place where further information on such would be available?

W.U. Friend.

#### Dear W.U.:

You ask many intriguing questions, and we believe that we could devote an entire issue to answering them. In fact, we spent a great deal of the August issue of 2600 discussing the very things that you brought up. Many of your questions could be answered by allowing yourself to get busted and letting Warren Burger and the rest of the Supreme Court decide. This may be she cosiest way because there are few laws, guidelines, or precedents. Right now, we do not know of any "unions," had there hundreds of computer user groups that are actively discussing these problems, and we also foresee groups forming to specifically address the problem. Especially since those computerphobes you were referring to are trying to get legislation passed to limit RRS's in this country. You must remember that this is a very popular issue, and it will come into play in various elections this fall, including those of the prosecutors who are pressing charges against he Private Sector's stroop.

# The 2600 Information Bureau

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# SYSTEMATICALLY SPEAKING

# Dick Tracy Toys Are Closing In

New York Dails News

The world's smallest pocket cellular phone -- 7 inches long and just 15 mines—will be introduced at a Las Vegas telecommunications show in September.

The Walker Pocket Phone will be a tiny version of the cellular car phone. It will not require a base station and can operate anywhere and will retail at about \$3,000.

The Using

At least three American companies have naveiled desk-top picture phones this year and two more companies plan 1986 releases. Image Data Corp, began delivering Photophone earlier this year. The device attaches to an ordinary phone line in a minute, takes feve minutes to learn to operate, and transmits black-and-white still pictures to its mates in five to fifteen seconds, it is priced at \$8,500.

Datapoint Corp's recently announced MINX does the same incolor and can also attack in a personal computer. It is priced from \$8,800 to \$11,100.

A full-motion color system from Wideom Inc. goes for \$50,000 for a picture squeezer and \$20,800 per station. Picture squeezing is a process that accounts for the fact that only a small amount of information can be sent down a regular phone line, and a video signal requires 150 times more information than a voice signal.

Ferrencial Courses Work

Validee Inc. has invented a band-held terminal aimed at the restaurant business that allows orders to be placed without the waiter having to ever leave the customer's table. The Point of Origin System is a local area network of printers, terminals, and computers that can be placed at the bar, kitchen and cash register. It uses radio frequencies to communicate with the host computer which can either be an IBM PC AT or AT&T 6300. In addition, the information display allows the restaurant to keep track of every item ordered and how many tables a waiter served on any given shift. This will allow the restaurant owner to decide which are the unpopular items on the menu and to examine the efficiency of the employees.

# Directory Assistance By Computer

Advertising App

Since May, 1984, when the seven regional relephone operating companies imposed a 50x charge for interstate directory assistance calls, direct marketers have sought to have that charge rolled back or climinated, and also to have the phone companies make directory information available on computer tape or directly via computer terminals.

Mountain Bell, based in Deaver and serving telephone customers in Idaho, Montana. Wyoming, Utah, Colorado. Arizona, and New Mexico, has taken the higgest step in that direction so far with the creation of a computer system it calls ScanTel. Available for a month, but as yet unpublicized by the company. ScanTel allows those equipped with a computer terminal or personal computer to access the company's entire directory database.

The ScanTel database is separate from that used by directory-assistance operators, although it contains the same listings. It differs from the conventional database, however, in

that it can be searched not only by name but by address. Soon to be added is a reverse directory feature, permitting users to find out who belongs to a given telephone number.

Users of the system can access it via telephone from anywhere in the country. A three-tiered pricing scheme has been established that simultaneously charges 50e per minute of use. 25e for each request, and 5e for each response. However, the system can handle requests for multiple addresses, such as all those on a given street. That would be considered a single request at 25e and each name, address, and phone number found would cost 5a.

### Pest Control

New York Mady News

If you own less than 100 shares, Bell South will pay you \$10 to get lost. The company is shooing away small investors who clutter up the books and hold only 14% of the 301.9 million shares. Shareholders who agree will be paid the market price for their stock, plus \$10 to close their account.

## Bell Propaganda Films

Suburban Toen

A suburban street served as a movie set last month as New Jersey Bell taped a movie about the consequences of cheating the phone company with computers and other technologies.

The movie, produced for AT&T, is "part of a total determent package," said Karen Johnson of New Jersey Hell: Although the full program has not yet been fully developed. Johnson said one of the videotapes will be targeted toward grammar school and high school students. Other groups to be targeted include vocational students, college students, and members of the military.

The program is designed to make viewers aware of the pitfalls of cheating Ma Bell, using computers to cheat systems, using false credit can'ts and other methods of avoiding payment.

## Europe Standardizing Telecoms

The Wall Street Journal

In Spain, the busy signal is three pips a second—in Denmark it's two. Telephone numbers within French cities are seven digits long—in Italy they're almost any length. West German phones run on 60 volts of electricity—clsewhere it's 48.

This list can go on and on; only about 30% of the technical specifications involved in phone systems are common from one country to the next. In telephones, as in much else in Europe, each country has gone its own way. But now the idea of standardizing telecommunications systems is catching on. Officials in national governments and at the Common Market executive commission are pushing it as a way of opening telecommunications markets and cutting phone bills. Big expurpment makers are supporting it as a way of expanding their sales abroad.

By the year 2000, telecommunications may grow more than threefold to 7% of the Common Market's gross domestic product, topping autos as the biggest industrial sector. Seven of the world's top 13 telephone switch makers are European. Many political and economic issues cloud the standardization process, because companies stand a lot to gain from these potential markets, and some have a lot to lose.

# Pursuit

(continued from page 2-58)

hope that we will be providing a safe, positive outlet for computer hobbyists, giving them inexpensive, virtually unlimited access to bundreds of free databases and bulletin boards. By removing the probabilitive cost from recreational data communications, perhaps PC Pursuit will encourage growth and advancement rather than mischief and abuse among hobbyists."

We think it's great. At last we are being encouraged to take advantage of technology without paying ridiculous prices. We look forward to the day when all "long-distance" calls will cost the same as local calls, and free databases be made available to

Naturally we are a little concerned that all of this data will be going through GTE. Telenet, i.e. just about every hacker bulketin board would at some point be called through it. It wouldn't be too difficult to spy on someone's data from within the system, but we feel that's already the case at present with all communications. As always, we recommend scrambling sensitive or private communications.

It's unlikely that this new system (co-developed by Digital Pathways, Inc. of California) will be victimized by hackers because of the callback feature. Stiff, if there is a way to defeat this, you can count on it being discovered. Even at this point, though, the most that any one person could cheat the service out of is \$25 a month.

Our main complaint with PC Pursuit is that it isn't available in nearly enough places. Only the largest of cities can use it to call other large cities. A list of dial-ups appears in this issue. When GTE finally gets around to implementing nationwide or even worldwide service, they will have a powerful, trend-setting, people-oriented product.

(More info can be obtained by talking to a human at 8003684215 or a computer at 8008353001.)

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Chicago	212	565-3927	Chicago 0
Dallas	214	£51-7094	-Dallas
Benver	303	671-5146	Denver
Detroit	313	961-9555	Dotroit
Houston	753	227-5742	Houston
Los Angeles	213	624-6062	LA
New York	212	675-3738	New York
Philadelphya	215	574-0613	Philip
San Francisco	415	398-1134	San Fran
Washington B.C.	. 202	659-2863	Wash DC

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# **Attention Readers!**

2600 is always looking for information that we can pass on to you. Whether it is an article, data, or an interesting news item—if you have something to offer, send it to us!

Remember, much of 2600

is written by YOU, our readers.

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